Immunology, 1974, **27**, 339.

Book Reviews

De Lineaire Plant Methods. By E. VEYS. Arseia Uitgavem, N.V. Brussel. 1972. Pp. 570.

After a historical review of the methods of diffusion, a theoretical and experimental study of diffusion in gels is described in depth.

The author then describes immunoprecipitation and his studies on the various parameters affecting the Mancini and Fahey radial immunodiffusion techniques and states his criticisms and reasons for looking for an alternative method, the 'linear plate' method. Then follows a description of the theoretical basis and practical details of this technique and its variations.

The remainder of the book is its application to the estimation of the immunoglobulins of a normal population and a group of the rheumatoid diseases.

The authors' values for his normal population are rather high for IgG, 1641 mg%, and the discrepancy between these and results already in the literature would need to be checked by a third independent method; his IgA and IgM values are comparable with published values. The section on rheumatoid diseases gives all the relevant data and the author's interpretation of his immunoglobulin results.

There are three résumés in Flemish, French and English and a very full bibliography. However, one feels that a book such as this, despite its meticulously detailed studies, will be limited to the small Flemish speaking population.

A. HOWARD

A Manual of Quantitative Immunoelectrophoresis Methods and Applications. Ed. by N. H. AXELSEN, J. KROLL and B. WEEKS. Universitetsforlaget, Oslo. 1973. Pp. 169. Price £7.50.

This manual was first published as a supplement to volume 2 of the Scandinavian Journal of Immunology, 1973, and the publishers are to be congratulated on making it available as a separate volume.

The opening chapter gives complete details of the apparatus and methods used, so that anyone could start the method in his laboratory. The manual considers various aspects: 'rocket' immunoelectrophoresis, crossed immunoelectrophoresis, and their variations and application to the comparison of antigens and antisera—all extremely well written and easy to follow.

The third part of the manual deals with applications of the various methods to particular proteins, using a variety of techniques from radioimmunoelectrophoresis to carbamylation of proteins for better separation.

The final chapter is on the preparation, isolation and estimation of antisera, thus rounding off a comprehensive manual of quantitative immunoelectrophoresis.

This manual is obviously essential to anyone wishing to start the technique, and indeed laboratories already using it will no doubt wish to have a copy for reference.

A. HOWARD